

FROM THE OFFICE OF

ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD

First District Supervisor, County of San Bernardino FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: Sept. 24, 2013 For information, contact Don Holland (760) 995-8100

Lovingood tops \$100,000 in property tax refunds

First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood's initiative to return unclaimed property tax refunds has topped the \$100,000 mark.

"It is certainly rewarding when we locate a property owner with a pending refund," Lovingood said. "We focus on putting that money back into the taxpayer's hand, knowing that money will flow back into the local economy."

County officials have sought to contact taxpayers entitled to refunds dating back before 2008. Unsuccessful in finding those due refunds, officials planned to transfer the more than \$2.2 million in unclaimed refunds to the county general fund. But Lovingood and county supervisors opposed the move in favor of making further efforts to find the eligible taxpayers.

Lovingood then directed his staff to begin locating taxpayers eligible for refunds. The search even turned up a refund owed to a member of the county's property tax appeals board.

"Taxpayers are happy that we took the time to look for them," said Lovingood's Executive Assistant, Susan Drake, who led the outreach effort.

Some refund recipients said the unexpected cash will be used for everything from groceries to clothes for their children.

Lovingood posted a list of those who are due unclaimed property tax refunds on his district website. To view the list of unclaimed property tax refunds, click on http://www.sbcounty.gov/bosd1/. To search for recent property tax refunds, click on http://www.sbcounty.gov/atc/pirfnet/